

progress in meeting the requirements described in section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act.

6. Pursuant to section 506A(a)(3) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Mauritania is not making continual progress in meeting the requirements described in section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act. Accordingly, I have decided to terminate the designation of Mauritania as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of section 506A of the 1974 Act, effective on January 1, 2009.

7. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502(a) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461, 2462(a)), the President is authorized to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program.

8. Pursuant to section 502(a)(1) of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) (19 U.S.C. 2462(c)), I have determined that the Republic of Kosovo (Kosovo) should be designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program.

9. Pursuant to section 502 of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c), I have determined that the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azerbaijan) should be designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program.

10. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483), as amended, authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of relevant provisions of that Act, or other acts affecting import treatment, and of actions taken thereunder.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to section 104 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703), and title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2461–67, 2483), do proclaim that:

(1) The designation of Mauritania as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of section 506A of the 1974 Act is terminated, effective on January 1, 2009.

(2) In order to reflect in the HTS that beginning on January 1, 2009, Mauritania shall no longer be designated as a beneficiary sub-

Saharan African country, general note 16(a) to the HTS is modified by deleting “Islamic Republic of Mauritania” from the list of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

(3) Kosovo is designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program.

(4) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by adding in alphabetical order “Kosovo,” effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after February 1, 2009.

(5) Azerbaijan is designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program.

(6) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by adding in alphabetical order “Azerbaijan,” effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after February 1, 2009.

(7) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., December 22, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 23.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders Extending Generalized System of Preferences Benefits to Kosovo and Azerbaijan**

*December 19, 2008*

*Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr.  
President:)*

In accordance with section 502(f)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”), I am notifying the Congress of

my intent to add the Republic of Kosovo (Kosovo) and the Republic of Azerbaijan (Azerbaijan) to the list of beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program.

In Proclamation 8272 of June 30, 2008, I designated Serbia as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program. On February 17, 2008, Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia. Pursuant to section 502 of the 1974 Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) of the 1974 Act, and in light of Kosovo's independence from Serbia, I have determined that Kosovo should be designated as a separate GSP beneficiary developing country.

In addition, having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Azerbaijan should be designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

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## **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### **December 13**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President traveled to Baghdad, Iraq, arriving the following afternoon.

The President declared an emergency in Massachusetts and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm beginning on December 11 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in New Hampshire and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm beginning on December 11 and continuing.

### **December 14**

In the afternoon, at Salam Palace, the President met with President Jalal Talabani and Vice Presidents Adil Abd Al-Mahdi and Tariq al-Hashimi of Iraq.

In the evening, the President traveled to the Prime Minister's palace, where he met with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. Later, he participated in an interview with ABC News. He then traveled to Camp Victory.

Later in the evening, the President traveled to Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan, arriving the following morning.

### **December 15**

In the morning, the President traveled to the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan. Later, President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan awarded him the Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan Insignia. He then returned to Bagram Air Force Base, where he met with U.S. Special Forces personnel.

Later in the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the afternoon. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had an intelligence briefing.

The President declared an emergency in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm beginning on December 11 and continuing.

### **December 16**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority to the White House on December 19.

### **December 17**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Carlisle, PA, arriving in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, at the U.S. Army War College, the President met with Army